

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JERUSA 00980 041450Z
ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0690
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, IS
SUBJECT: VISIT OF AMIDEAST OFFICIALS

REF: STATE 82804

1. CONGEN OFFICERS SPOKE WITH ORIN PARKER AND DAVID MIZE ON THREE OCCASIONS DURING THEIR VISIT TO JERUSALEM AND WEST BANK (MARCH 26-APRIL 3). PARKER LEFT JERUSALEM APRIL 4 WHILE MIZE WILL STAY ON FOR ANOTHER WEEK.

2. BOTH MEN WERE VERY SATISFIED WITH THEIR INITIAL IN-DEPTH DISCUSSIONS WITH WEST BANK EDUCATORS AND SEE GOOD PROSPECTS FOR A VERY EFFECTIVE THREE-PRONGED PROGRAM OF UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS, FACULTY DEVELOPMENT, AND SPECIALIST TRAINING. DURING THEIR VISIT THEY HAVE SEEN SENIOR OFFICIALS AT ALL THREE WEST BANK UNIVERSITIES--BIR ZEIT, BETHLEHEM, AND AN NAJAH--AND HAVE ALSO BEEN TO GAZA AND TALKED TO MAYOR AND GAZA COLLEGE ADMINISTRATION. THEY ALSO MET OTHER FOLAG REPS IN JERUSALEM.

3. AFTER APRIL 3 MEETING WITH LAVINE OF ISRAELI MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE, PARKER AND MIZE CAME BY CONSULATE GENERAL TO SAY THAT MEETING HAD BEEN ALTOGETHER
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FRIENDLY AND UNEVENTFUL. CERTAINLY LAVINE RAISED NO OBJECTIONS TO AMIDEAST GENERAL PLANS. AT SOME LATER DATE, LAVINE THOUGHT AMIDEAST PEOPLE SHOULD MEET AVITSOUR, MSW DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL. MIZE TOLD US THAT HE PLANS TO MEET GONEN OF MFA, AT GONEN'S REQUEST, SOME TIME NEXT WEEK.

4. ON QUESTION OF SIZE OF AMIDEAST'S OPERATION AND PLANS FOR ADMINISTERING WEST BANK PROGRAM, PARKER AND MIZE SAID THAT FIRST STEP WAS FOR AMIDEAST TO DEVELOP THEIR FIVE-YEAR PROGRAM PROPOSAL WHICH THEY HOPED TO HAVE READY BY MID-SUMMER. WORKING DRAFT WHICH THEY SHOWED US (BUT SAID HAD NO REAL STATUS YET) INDICATED ESTIMATED PROGRAM AMOUNTS OF .5 MILLION (1979-1980); .8 MILLION (1980-1981); 1.1 MILLION (1981-1982).

5. AS TO AMIDEAST'S PRESENCE IN JERUSALEM, BOTH PARKER AND MIZE AGREED WITH US THAT IT IS PREMATURE TO MAKE ANY DEFINITE PLANS YET. IF PROGRAM APPROVED FOR WORK IN SUBSEQUENT FISCAL YEARS, IT SEEMS TO US THAT AMIDEAST WOULD NEED OFFICE WITH FULL-TIME PERSONNEL TO HANDLE VOLUME OF CORRESPONDENCE INVOLVED. FOR TIME BEING OUR ADVICE WAS TO PROCEED STEP-BY-STEP. PRAGMATICALLY. IT SEEMED TO PARKER AND MIZE THAT VOLUME OF AMIDEAST WORK UP THROUGH END OF YEAR COULD PROBABLY BE HANDLED ON LESS THAN FULL-TIME BASIS. WE AGREED THAT ISSUE SHOULD BE REVIEWED JUNE/JULY WHEN PARKER PLANS TO RETURN NEXT. ONE OTHER BIT OF ADVICE WE LEFT WITH AMIDEAST REPS WAS TO KEEP EYE ON MAIN TASKS OF PROPOSED PROGRAM AND NOT BE DIVERTED INTO OTHER AREAS, AT LEAST, INITIALLY. WE BELIEVE AMIDEAST WILL HAVE SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM TO EXTENT THAT IT KEEPS LEAN, LOW-KEY, AND NOT OVER-EXTENDED.

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6. REF TEL AVIV 4434, IT IS INACCURATE TO SAY THE CONGEN AND ORIN PARKER CONCURRED IN EMBASSY INTENTION TO SEND DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO GOI ON AMIDEAST PROGRAM. WE BELIEVED ORAL NOTIFICATION WAS SUFFICIENT. DPO, WHO PRESENT AT FEB. 24 MEETING QUESTIONED WISDOM OR NECESSITY OF ANY SUCH PROPOSED WRITTEN NOTIFICATION WHICH COULD RUN RISK OF SETTING UNHELPFUL PRECEDENT. CONGEN OFFICER REITERATED, PREFERENCE FOR ORAL COMMUNICATION WHEN SUBSEQUENTLY ASKED TO CLEAR WORDING OF AIDE MEMOIRE. NEVERTHELESS, OF COURSE, WE ACCEPT FACT THAT IT IS EMBASSY'S JOB TO CONDUCT BUSINESS WITH GOI AS IT DEEMS BEST. BASED ON AMIDEAST'S INITIAL CONTACTS IN WEST BANK AND WITH GOI, WE DETECT NO PROBLEMS AS YET ON HORIZON WITH REGARD TO AMIDEAST'S PROPOSED WORK ON WEST BANK. NEWLIN

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